Atty. Docket No. 575.040

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 37. **(Cancelled)**

38. **(New)** An apparatus comprising:

a spare tire, said spare tire comprising a rim having a central interior opening having an inner circumference, said rim also having a plurality of smaller openings radially spaced from said central interior opening; and

an apparatus for carrying said spare tire on a vehicle comprising:

a tire support capable of movement about horizontal and vertical axes, said tire support being attached to a vehicle;

at least one lug extending perpendicularly from said tire support for securing said tire to said tire support, said at least one lug having a length, said at least one lug passing through one of said plurality of smaller openings of said rim; and

a tire spinner extending perpendicularly from said tire support, said tire spinner comprising circular material having a length and a constant diameter throughout said material length, said circular material having a circumference that is extent between at least 240° and 355°, said length of said circular material being greater than said length of

said at least one lug, said material being in contact with said inner circumference of said central interior opening of said rim throughout said circumference of said circular material,

wherein said tire spinner supports said tire in a manner to permit said tire to rotate and be aligned with said at least one lug, wherein said tire spinner supports said tire throughout a series of positions through which said tire support can travel about a horizontal axis, thereby enabling tire rotation at any of the positions.

39. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said at least one lug comprises three lugs, said three lugs being circumferentially spaced so as to pass through three of said plurality of smaller opening of said rim.

40. **(New)** An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire, comprising:

a swing arm having a proximal and a distal end, said swing arm being pivotally attached to a vehicle at one said proximal end and movable about a vertical axis between a closed position and an open position;

a pivot arm having a proximal and a distal end, said pivot arm being pivotally attached to said swing arm at said proximal end and movable about a horizontal axis between a raised position and a lowered position;

a tire support affixed to said pivot arm proximate to said distal end of said pivot arm, said tire support adapted to mount a tire having a rim with an interior opening;

at least one lug extending from said tire support for securing the tire to said tire support; and

a tire spinner extending from said tire support, said tire spinner comprising material extending past said at least one lug, said tire spinner being adapted to support the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with said at least one lug,

wherein said pivot arm, when in said raised position, extends parallel to said swing arm in a horizontal plane from said proximal end of said pivot arm to said distal end of said pivot arm, and wherein said tire spinner supports the tire throughout the positions through which said pivot arm can travel about said horizontal axis, thereby enabling tire rotation at any of the positions.

41. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said tire spinner provides support throughout at least a major portion of the interior opening in the rim.

42. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the tire is located above the ground when said pivot arm is in said raised position and wherein the tire contacts the ground when said pivot arm is in said lowered position.

43. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, further comprising:

a means for allowing said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis.

44. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein:

a mechanically assisted device for raising and lowering is fixed to said swing arm proximate to said distal end of said swing arm, said mechanically assisted device having a cable connected to said pivot arm proximate to said distal end of said pivot arm, thereby allowing said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis.

45. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein

said means for said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis is electrically operated.

46. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein

said means for said pivot arm to be moved and maintained throughout a plurality of positions about said horizontal axis is motorized.

47. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of said material is extent up to 360°.

48. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of said material is extent 360°.

49. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent between at least about 240° and 360°.

50. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein

said material is circular and

the circumference of the material is extent between at least about 240° and 355°.

51. **(New)** The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein

said pivot arm moves between said raised and lowered positions entirely within a single vertical plane perpendicular to said horizontal axis.

52. **(New)** The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein

said material is circular and

said material has a length and a constant diameter throughout said length.

53. **(New)** The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein

said material is adapted to contact with the interior opening of the rim throughout a circumference of said circular material.